(a) whether there is decline in the tobacco trade in the country especially in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to allow direct foreign investment for developing and manufacturing of cigarettes in Andhra Pradesh to assist tobacco trade?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) There has been no perceptible declining trend in the volume of tobacco trade.

(b) Does not arise.

CAG's Report on Export

1839. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has said in its latest report that top exporters cornering bulk of advance licences issued by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (D.G.F.T.) have failed to fulfill their export obligation on advance licences;

(b) if so, the names and details of such defaulters; and

(c) the action taken, if any, against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India has conducted a detailed examination of the advance licensing scheme in Chapter 2 of Report No. 10 of 1999, which has already been laid on the table of both the Houses of Parliament on 29th October, 1999.

(c) As per the laid down procedure, an Action Taken Note (ATN) has been prepared for vetting by the Audit authorities and submission to the Parliament.

Major Shift in FDI

1840. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major shift has been made in the foreign direct Investment policy of Government just before the current budget session; and